

More Hazardous Trees Removed from City Streets

Twenty-five hazardous trees were removed throughout the City in early 2012 as part of a **Tree Resource Improvement and Maintenance (TRIM) grant** awarded to the City of Liberty. A local tree contractor removed 15 trees, and Liberty Parks staff removed 10 more. TRIM is a competitive cost-share tree care program administered by the Missouri Department of Conservation in cooperation with the Missouri Community Forest Council.

In 2006 the City of Liberty, then a two-year Tree City USA, conducted a tree inventory that covered most of the City. From this inventory, the City's Tree Board found some valuable information out about our City street trees. Of the 741 trees inventoried, 75 were identified to be removed due to hazardous conditions, and 20 more needed hazardous limbs pruned. Thanks to a TRIM grant in the fall of 2006 and 2007, phase 1 and phase 2 of the plan was completed. Fifteen hazardous trees were removed in phase 1, and 28 additional trees were removed in phase 2. The 25 trees that were eliminated from street right-of-ways this year completed the removal of the hazardous trees identified in the original inventory.

In August 2005, the Tree Board adopted a hazardous tree policy stating the worst trees should be removed first. The City of Liberty's Tree Board determined that action should be taken to complete the hazardous tree removal as soon as possible. The end result is an increase in public safety and enhanced aesthetics along Liberty streets by implementing the Board's recommendations. This proactive approach to identifying and eliminating potentially dangerous trees along our City Streets will ensure the safety of our streets and sidewalks.

Homeowners can help maintain healthy, strong trees through **careful selection and early pruning**. When selecting a tree, be sure that its ultimate size, strength and form is appropriate for the site. Proper pruning allows a young tree to develop a strong structure and a desirable form while cuts are small and can heal easily. If trees are appropriately pruned in their first decade, they will require little corrective pruning when they are mature and will be more resistant to ice and wind damage. Young tree care is a very cost effective tree care method for both cities and homeowners.

For more information on tree selection, pruning, or hazardous tree removal, contact Chris Wilson, Parks & Open Space Manager at 439-4384 or cwilson@ci.liberty.mo.us.

